

8 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : Critique of Program

1. As Columbia University finals were scheduled unusually early in the year (mid-May), I happened to have the bad luck to be available to work earlier than most other students. Therefore, even though my application probably took no longer than most to process, it did seem like a very short interval between the time I was notified of clearance (May 3), and the time I began working (May 21). I don't make this point as grounds for complaint -- the school calendar is hardly something you can alter! -- only for the consideration of future summer interns.

2. As far as interviews, medical exams, etc., it seemed that much more could have been accomplished in less time! In my case, a free afternoon or two could have been filled up with interviews, perhaps, and shortened the total processing time (as well as expenses).

Also, it seemed I spent a great deal of time just waiting to see people. Certainly schedules are busy, and unavoidable things to happen; but as [REDACTED] will verify, we both waited over 1½ hours just to be admitted for our medical exams (by that time I was wondering how true our blood pressure readings would be!).

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The only other really objectionable thing about processing was the cursed lie detector test. Nobody enjoys that, I'd wager, but all the protesting and pleading in the world is useless on this score -- because I do see why the test is used and that it is fruitful in some cases. Truthfully, though, I felt very abused afterward, and resented the whole scene.

Since I'd previously never been to D.C., I actually enjoyed the interviewing trip immensely. The time I had left for sightseeing in the evenings made the trip fun.

3. After having talked with some of the other interns about the types of work assignments they received, I almost feel privileged. Not that they are that bad off, but just that I was pleased with the type of project I was given. The work seemed relevant to me -- not some dusty busywork that had been dredged up.

And whether the work was all that crucial or not, the important point to me, looking back, is that my fellow workers made me feel it was important. They treated me with almost more respect than I felt a lowly summer intern deserved, and sought my opinions on various subjects. At no time did I feel relegated to the status of anything less than a potential fulltime employee, and at times I got hints that I would be welcome as such -- which was very nice!

In fact, I feel an obligation to especially single out the people in OER/U/SR branch as the most impressive aspect of my entire Summer Intern experience. They were all absolutely great. Everyone I met was friendly, helpful, and very professional; and if you are looking for ideal spots to place interns in the future, I heartily recommend 3G-46.

4. The briefings we attended were interesting, and generally well-done. Suggestions that came to mind:

A few of the lecturers were a bit dry, however, and concentrated too extensively on the organizational aspects of their jobs. Who really cares about organization charts? They're not a big concern to me -- I'm much more interested in the goals and purposes of these divisions. And although it is desirable to appreciate where these branches fit into the whole agency, I felt we were subjected a bit too much to that aspect (perhaps due to the big reorganization recently).

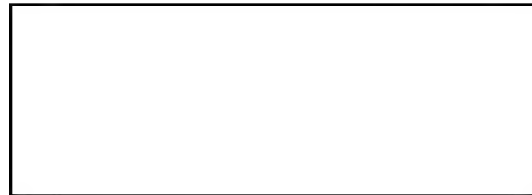
I thought the information about AEGIS and the CRS should have come much earlier in the sequence. Those were useful briefings, and actually meant I could perform my job more efficiently. I wished they had come sooner.

Carl Duckett was spectacular; and Bruce Clarke was very interesting. But where are all the women in responsible positions? There must be some females around who could give briefings, as encouragement to the rest of us!

Perhaps a tour of the OCI where all incoming messages are received could have been arranged for all the interns. Also, the DDO was a bit slighted as far as emphasis -- but I understand this is to be changed next year.

Overall, the briefings were very worthwhile and helped me respect the "totality", if you will, of the agency. I'm amazed and impressed at its diversity and sophistication. In fact, some of the fulltime employees I spoke with¹² interested in attending similar briefings, and I think they would be dealt a measure of respect for the Agency if they were given the opportunity. My Branch Chief joked that we had been addressed by the Director before even he had!

5. I got a lot out of the summer intern program. It's unfortunate that some of the bad publicity on the outside could not be answered by the same positive aspects we have seen throughout the summer. Although I will be going back to school next year -- and probably getting married along the way -- I would be very interested in returning next summer again if it is agreeable to those in OER who decide these things! Thank you for a enjoyable summer.



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